



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS
WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS**

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CATALOGUING SECTION

ISSN Liaison

<http://www.issn.org>

Activities Report, August 2017-August 2018

I. Status of the ISSN Network

The ISSN Network consists of the International Centre, based in Paris, and 90 member countries worldwide: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa-Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Ghana, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Nepal, New-Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

II. Cataloguing activity of the ISSN Network

ISSN are assigned to serial publications by the ISSN International Centre and the ISSN National Centres which are hosted by national libraries or scientific and technical research centres. ISSN are registered as identification metadata in bibliographic records which are subsequently published in the ISSN Register.

As of January 2018, the ISSN Register included 2,005,090 records with 61,670 new ISSN registered in 2017. The identification of digital serial resources continues to make good progress with 224,761 digital resources having an ISSN in 2017 (201,663 at the end of 2016, i.e. a 10% increase). All statistics regarding the ISSN Register are available at <http://www.issn.org>.

The ISSN Register is published online via the ISSN Portal (<https://portal.issn.org>).

Significant investments were made in 2016 and 2017 to update the online portal which was launched in January 2018. The new portal provides enhanced functionalities based on a new search engine and linked data technologies. The new portal also provides a subset of ISSN data as linked open data, allowing for quick identification of serials and other continuing resources.

A Corporate extranet has also been set up to manage the relationships with registrants requesting ISSN assignment for serial publications.

Professional users such as libraries, publishers, copyright agencies, system and content providers can access the whole updated register on a subscription basis and benefit from improved services. The ISSN Register is available through OAI-PMH protocol and REST APIs. For specific needs, ISSN Premium is a tailor-made service to check serial data provided by third parties by comparing them with the ISSN Register.

III. Standardisation activity

a. ISSN Review Group (ISSN RG)

The ISSN Review Group is a group of experts, from different ISSN National Centres, in charge of the general maintenance and evolution of ISSN bibliographic rules.

The ISSN Review Group had two face-to-face meetings during the reporting period:

- before the Directors meeting in Rabat (November 6th, 2017),
- before the ISSN General Assembly in Paris (April 23rd-24th, 2018).

Among many different topics, the ISSN RG has been working on:

- the harmonization between RDA, ISBD and ISSN;
- the use of the ISSN by abstracting and indexing services;
- the management of ISSN assignment for multinational scholarly publishers;
- how ISSN National Centres can use the Electronic Transfer Alerting Service (ETAS), which is a service designed to inform all stakeholders of the serials supply chain whenever there is a transfer of ownership from a publisher to another;
- the use of classifications in the ISSN Register;
- several other bibliographic issues.

b. ISSN Manual

The ISSN Manual is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. See the different versions at <http://www.issn.org/understanding-the-issn/assignment-rules/issn-manual/>.

c. ISO

The ISSN International Centre is the Registration authority for ISO 3297 -- ISSN and ISO 4 -- Rules for the abbreviation of title words and titles of publications.

Since September 2017, the ISSN International Centre has been involved with the revision of ISO 3297. Gaëlle Béquet (Director, ISSN IC) is the convenor of ISO TC46/SC9/WG5 and she has organized monthly meetings with the experts appointed to the working group in charge of the revision of ISO 3297. In December 2017, an opinion survey based on a questionnaire developed by WG5 experts was circulated so as to get feedback from users on a series of proposals. The survey was made available in 7 languages and triggered 1,491 responses, among which 800 from libraries, 400 from publishers, and 150 from scholarly societies. These findings are under discussion within the WG5.

d. IFLA

In 2013-2014, the ISSN IC and the BnF developed the PRESS_{OO} model, an ontology intended to capture and represent the underlying semantics of bibliographic information about continuing resources.

This standard, now named “Definition of PRESS_{OO}, A conceptual model for Bibliographic Information Pertaining to Serials and Other Continuing Resources” (version 1.3), was approved by IFLA Committee on Standards and endorsed by IFLA Professional Committee on 31 March 2017.

It is maintained by the “PRESS_{OO} Review Group”, affiliated to the IFLA Cataloguing Section. Clément Oury (head of Data, Network and Standards, ISSN IC) is chair of the Review Group, whose other members are Vincent Boulet (BnF), Gordon Dunsire (chair of RDA Steering Committee), Louise Howlett (BL/ISSN UK), Patrick Lebœuf (BnF), Regina Reynolds (LC/ISSN US) and Mélanie Roche (BnF).

It has been made available online at: <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11408>.

See the report of the PRESS_{OO} Review Group to the Cataloguing Section for more details.

e. RDA

In June 2015, the ISSN IC signed an agreement with the RDA Steering Committee or RSC (formerly RDA Joint Steering Committee) in order to “support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISSN instructions and element sets”.

As part of this agreement, and in order to study the impact of the publication of IFLA LRM, the Chair of RDA Steering Committee and the ISSN IC decided to issue a discussion paper summarizing common views about the modelling of serials and other continuing resources. This paper has been reviewed and endorsed by the RSC and the ISSN Review Group. It has been published on RSC website on June 2018 and is available at: <http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Chair-20.pdf>.

The statements exposed in this discussion paper have influenced the beta version of the RDA Toolkit released in June 2018, developed through the “RDA Toolkit Redesign and Restructure Project” (or 3R Project). This discussion paper is intended to influence as well, in a longer run, the evolution of the ISSN Manual, and may provide some guidance for the current revision of the ISBD.

A representative of the ISSN International Centre is a member of the RSC Aggregates Working Group, which is in charge of the modelling of Aggregates in RDA – as serials are aggregates. In order to work on the specific characteristics of serials, the AWG has decided to create an ad-hoc expert group, on a temporary basis, called the Serials Task Force. The STF was chaired by Ed Jones (National University Library, San Diego), with two members of the ISSN Network: Regina Reynolds (US ISSN Centre) and Clément Oury (ISSN International Centre).

The STF has produced a series of recommendations which were taken into account in the new version of the RDA toolkit.

f. EDItEUR

The ISSN International Centre is a member of EDItEUR, the organization in charge of developing and maintaining the standards of the publishing industry, including ONIX and ICEDIS (ONIX for serials).

IV. Networking and communication activities

The 42nd ISSN Directors' Meeting was held from 7th to 10th November 2017 at the kind invitation of the National Library of Morocco in Rabat.

The General Assembly of the ISSN Network was organized in Paris on 26th and 27th April. In this framework was organized the international conference "An International Perspective on Open Science: Achievements and Challenges" (see the videos at <https://webcast.in2p3.fr/container/issn-conference-2018>).

The 43rd ISSN Directors' Meeting will be held in Washington, from 17th to 21st September 2018, at the Library of Congress (USA).

**The complete Annual report of the ISSN International Centre is available at
<http://www.issn.org>.**

Respectfully submitted by

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